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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,578	07/11/2001	Hideaki Aoi	K-1989	4805
32628	7590	03/25/2005	EXAMINER	
HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER PATENT AGENTS SUITE 300, 1700 DIAGONAL RD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-2848			QURESHI, SHABANA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/901,578

Applicant(s)

AOI ET AL.

Examiner

Shabana Qureshi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claim 9 recites the limitations "the information reference tendency" and "the simple questionnaire response tendency". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Greening et al (US Patent Publication No.2001/0013009).

As per claim 1, Greening teaches an information distribution service system for a user which has visited a Web site in the internet, comprising: means for knowing an information reference tendency of the user at the site which the user has visited (page 1, paragraph 0014; page 2, paragraph 0018 and 0034; a user's interactions are recorded, reactions to items are predicted, and recommendations are generated via a web browsing interface).; and

means for distributing to the user individual information correlated to evaluation of the reference tendency (page 1, paragraph 0014; page 2, paragraph 0018 and 0034; a user's interactions are recorded, reactions to items are predicted, and recommendations are generated via a web browsing interface).

As per claim 2, Greening teaches the information distribution service system according to claim 1, wherein the knowing of the reference tendency involves preparing reference values for reference recording for an access to each information item retrieved by the user (page 2, paragraph 0017; user reactions are rated and recorded) and combining the reference values to thereby digitize a user's interest tendency and obtain the tendency as a reference through decision rule processing prepared beforehand arbitrarily (page 2, paragraph 0018, page 3, paragraph 0050; page 4, paragraphs 0054-0056; user reactions are rated and compared to predetermined user reaction processes and results are stored in a database).

As per claim 3, Greening teaches the information distribution service system according to claim 1, wherein a distribution service of the individual information item is alienated from each service at a Web site using both a Proxy concept and a filter concept (page 1, paragraph 0010).

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As per claim 9, Greening teaches an information distribution service system which distributes information to users who have visited an Internet Web site characterized in that a number of users are marked such that the information reference tendency or the simple questionnaire response tendency of said visitors is continuously collected to process virtual characters out of said marked visitors (page 1, paragraph 0014; page 2, paragraph 0018 and 0034; a user's interactions are recorded, reactions to items are predicted, and recommendations are generated via a web browsing interface) on the basis of evaluation functions from consciousness models for knowing the consciousness tendency shown by said individual virtual characters as a market consciousness (page 1, paragraph 0014; page 2, paragraph 0018 and 0034; a user's interactions are recorded, reactions to items are predicted, and recommendations are generated via a web browsing interface).

As per claim 10, Greening teaches an information distribution service system according to claim 9, characterized in comprising means for correcting the consciousness tendency of said virtual characters on the basis of the consciousness tendency of the existing characters (page 2, paragraph 0021).

As per claim 11, Greening teaches an information distribution service system according to claim 9, characterized in comprising means for correcting said evaluation functions if there is a great discrepancy between the predicted market consciousness from said virtual character and the market consciousness from an existing character (page 2, paragraph 0017).

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4. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard et al (US Patent Publication No.2003/0204610 A1, hereinafter "Howard").

As per claim 4, Howard teaches an information service system for distributing information to a user who has visited a Web site in the internet to then perform routing of information distribution when the user is certified, comprising:

an intelligent router which is provided for each network router or user terminal, to which is registered an IP address of an information distribution source and a user terminal beforehand, and which has a gate management table comprised of a setting gate for deciding permission/refusal of distribution of information between the IP address of the information distribution source and the IP address of the user terminal (page 2, paragraphs 0018-0020; page 3, paragraphs 0029-0030; the affiliate server performs these functions); and

a certification server for certifying information distribution from an information distribution source to a user to thereby open the setting gate of the gate management table when the user's terminal is certified, thus enabling information to be distributed (page 2, paragraphs 0018-0020; page 3, paragraphs 0029-0030; the authentication server performs these functions).

As per claim 5, Howard teaches an information service system for distributing information to a user who has visited a Web site in the internet to then perform routing of information distribution when the user is certified, comprising:

an intelligent router which is provided for each user terminal, to which is registered an IP address of an information distribution source and a user terminal beforehand, and which has a

gate management table comprised of a setting gate for a user ID (page 2, paragraphs 0018-0020; page 3, paragraphs 0029-0030; the affiliate server performs these functions); and

a certification server for certifying information distribution from an information distribution source to a user to thereby register a user ID at the setting gate of the gate management table when the user's terminal is certified, thus enabling information to be distributed (page 2, paragraphs 0018-0020; page 3, paragraphs 0029-0030; the authentication server performs these functions).

As per claim 6, Howard teaches the information distribution service system according to claim 4, wherein the intelligent router is provided with means for recording a session log of communication through the intelligent router for each connected terminal/certified user to thereby deliver the session log to an external session management mechanism in response to a request of the external session management mechanism (page 4, paragraph 0035).

As per claim 7, Howard teaches the information distribution service system according to claim 4, wherein the intelligent router is provided with a means by which in registration of an IP address and a user ID of an information distribution source and a user terminal, one of a plurality of sibling intelligent routers is specified as a master router so that when data registered at any one of the plurality of sibling intelligent routers is set up at the master router, the master router can transfer the data to the other sibling intelligent routers in a relay format in such a manner that any ones of the sibling intelligent routers may set registered data of their own sequentially (page 5, paragraph 0048).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard et al (US Patent Publication No.2003/0204610 A1, hereinafter "Howard").

With regard to claim 8, official notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Howard to specify a deflection process to protect the routing element of the network system in order to provide the advantage of increased efficiency for enciphering information.

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Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shabana Qureshi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3990.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 9:30 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Shabana Qureshi
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

SQ
March 19, 2005


HOSAIN ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER